

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 282931
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 STR-05 OMB-01
AGRE-00 COME-00 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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DRAFTED BY EB/OF/FFD:STJOHNSON
APPROVED BY EB/ORF/OF:JAFERCH
AID/FFP - KBITTERMANN (SUBS)
AID/PPC/FDA - CMICHALOPOULOS
STR - TREGAN (SUBS)
TREASURY - LLOWENSTEIN
OMB - RGREENSTEIN (SUBS)
-----114888 260858Z /11
P 260133Z NOV 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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FOR USDEL IWC - R.M. OGDEN

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR

SUBJECT: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE'S STATEMENT FOR ITEM 8 OF
FOOD AID COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. FOLLOWING IS THE CLEARED TEXT OF THE U.S. REPRESENTA-
TIVE'S REMARKS UNDER ITEM 8: BEGIN TEXT

2. MR. CHAIRMAN:

WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I WOULD LIKE AT THIS TIME TO OFFER A
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PAGE 02 STATE 282931

FEW GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW FOOD
AID CONVENTION. IN THE BROADEST SENSE, I BELIEVE ALL
GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED HERE HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR POSITIONS
EITHER THROUGH SUPPORT OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT SUCH
GATHERINGS AS THE MANILA MEETING OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL,
THROUGH STATEMENTS IN THIS FORUM, OR THROUGH DIRECT
ANNOUNCEMENTS. FROM SUCH EVIDENCE, WE CONCLUDE THAT THERE

IS VIRTUAL UNANIMITY OF OPINION--COLLECTIVELY WE WISH TO
ADOPT A NEW FOOD AID CONVENTION.

3. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS
EXPRESSED ITS POSITION EVEN MORE EXPLICITLY. OUR DELEGATION
AT THE SEPTEMBER 1977 SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY GROUP
EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THREE BROAD OBJECTIVES IN A NEW FOOD
AID CONVENTION. THESE WERE, FIRST, THE ASSURANCE OF FOOD
ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT NOT LESS THAN 10
MILLION TONS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. SECOND, THE ASSURANCE
THAT FOOD AID QUANTITIES CAN BE INCREASED IN RESPONSE TO
SPECIFIC NEEDS. AND THIRD, THE SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY
FOR FOOD AID AMONG A WIDE RANGE OF DONOR AND POTENTIAL
DONOR COUNTRIES. TO THESE OBJECTIVES I SHOULD ADD A
THEME THAT HAS BEEN DOMINANT IN THE US POSITION SINCE THE
NEGOTIATION OF THE FIRST FOOD AID CONVENTION. THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT A STRONG FOOD AID
CONVENTION SHOULD BE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL
WHEAT AGREEMENT. CONSIDERATION OF ONE INVOLVES CONSIDERATION
OF THE OTHER--RENEGOTIATION OF ONE IS LINKED TO THE
RENEGOTIATION OF THE OTHER. WE INTEND TO PURSUE THESE
OBJECTIVES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT WE HOPE LIE AHEAD. WE
EXPECT THAT OTHER PARTICIPANTS WILL SUGGEST STILL ADDITIONAL
OBJECTIVES FOR A RENEWED FOOD AID CONVENTION. THE MEANS
OF ACHIEVING SUCH OBJECTIVES WILL NATURALLY ALSO BE A
SUBJECT FOR NEGOTIATION.

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PAGE 03 STATE 282931

4. THE NEXT STAGE IN THE PROCESS WILL BE THE DRAFTING
SESSION THAT BEGINS FOLLOWING THIS MEETING. QUITE
OBVIOUSLY THAT SESSION WILL WORK ON THE TEXT OF A POSSIBLE
FOOD AID CONVENTION AS WELL AS ON THE TEXT OF A POSSIBLE
WHEAT TRADE CONVENTION. THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WILL
PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS. MOST OF US
PROBABLY FIND OUR PREPARATIONS FOR DISCUSSING A WHEAT TRADE
CONVENTION ARE STILL MORE ADVANCED AT THIS STAGE THAN OUR
PREPARATION FOR A FOOD AID CONVENTION. MOREOVER, THE
OUTCOME OF OUR DELIBERATIONS ON THE WHEAT TRADE CONVENTION
WILL AFFECT OUR PERCEPTION OF JUST WHAT KIND OF FOOD AID
IS NECESSARY. CONSEQUENTLY, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE
DRAFTING GROUP NEXT WEEK MAKE AS MUCH PROGRESS AS POSSIBLE
ON THE WHEAT TRADE CONVENTION. THEREFORE WE WOULD PROPOSE
THAT THE DRAFTS BE REVIEWED AGAIN AT THE SPECIAL COUNCIL
SESSION IN JANUARY. AT THAT TIME WE WOULD EXPECT ALL
PARTICIPANTS TO BE PREPARED TO TABLE THEIR FOOD AID
CONVENTION PROPOSALS. END TEXT. VANCE

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